

From: PAULAnNEAL@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/28/01 7:18am
Subject: Microsoft case

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to comment on microsoft case/settlement. By my reading of the settlement, msft seems to be more rewarded for their monopolistic practices than punished. The biggest reason why msft ran afoul of the law in the first place was the fact that they bundled and integrated all their extras in with the operating system, essentially making their standard the defacto standard. If you read msft's own press over the past years prior to the introduction of the new xp operating system, they have gone even further doing this with this new system and nothing in the remedy prevents them from doing this again and again. Msft has also in the past built things into the operating system to make competing programs work less well than their own products. This gives msft an unfair advantage that is not addressed in the settlement. Msft continues to try to run afoul of accepted standards in order to allow their own brand of product to prevail.

Also as part of the settlement, Msft offered to give a billion in used hardware and software to schools. By structuring the settlement in this way, it essentially furthers msft's monopolistic practices by shutting out other potential solutions to the school market, a market that msft has not been able to totally dominate yet. A more proper penalty and solution would be to have msft make a cash donation to the schools to help with purchasing the technology they feel they need, not the technology that msft wants to give them to further their dependance on msft products in the future. In addition, msft software donations would be valued at full retail value but actually cost msft pennies on the dollar. This would hardly penalize msft at all.

Lastly, competing products must be given a fair chance to compete. Msft needs to adhere to standards chosen by the computer industry, not try to force their solution to the defacto choice simply because they control the majority of the computer desktops.

Sincerely,

Neal